

DIRECTIONS FOR ISSUING PUBLIC NOTICE - **NITRATE** MCL VIOLATION

PUBLIC NOTICE SHALL BE GIVEN TO ALL CONSUMERS AS SPECIFIED BELOW

*Notice shall be provided as soon as possible, but no later than **24 hours** after learning of the acute nitrate MCL violation. Proof of public notice, as described below, shall be completed and sent to DES within **10 days** of providing public notice.*

Public water systems must provide notice in a form and manner reasonably calculated to reach all persons served. Thus, water systems must use, at a minimum, one or more of the following forms of delivery:

1. Immediately furnish a copy of the notice to the radio and television stations that broadcast to the area served by the public water system.
2. Posting of the notice in conspicuous locations throughout the area served by the water system.
3. Direct or door-to-door delivery of the notice.
4. Publication of the notice for 3 consecutive days in a daily newspaper of general circulation that serves the area of the water system.

Additional methods (e.g., electronic mail, delivery of multiple copies to hospitals or schools), may be needed since the notice must be provided in a manner reasonably calculated to reach all persons served.

The language in *italics* on the reverse side must remain unchanged. ***This language is mandatory.***

Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions being taken by the water system, such as investigating treatment options, hiring a consultant, or purchasing water from another water system.

Submitting Proof of Public Notice to DES

Within **10 days** after issuing the notice, the owner of the water system shall provide proof of public notice to DES. Proof of public notice shall consist of a copy of the notice that was distributed or posted, or each of the 3 full pages of newspaper articles, **and** the following completed certification:

CERTIFICATION

I hereby affirm that public notice has been provided to consumers in accordance with the delivery, content, and deadline requirements in NH Admin. Rule Env-Ws 351, as outlined above.

DES' Water Supply Engineering Bureau was consulted on _____
(date)

First Delivery Method Used: _____ Date: _____

Second Delivery Method Used (IF needed): _____ Date: _____

Signature of Water System Owner

Water System Name

Date

Proof of public notification should be faxed to (603) 271-5171 OR mailed to:

Chemical Monitoring Section
Department of Environmental Services
Water Supply Engineering Bureau
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095

DRINKING WATER WARNING

**DO NOT GIVE THIS WATER TO INFANTS UNDER 6 MONTHS OLD
OR USE IT TO MAKE INFANT FORMULA**

_____ **Has Levels of Nitrate Above Drinking Water Standards**
(name of water system)

What does this mean?

Water sample results collected on _____ showed a nitrate level of _____.
(date) (level and units)

This is above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level, of 10 mg/L (10 parts per million). Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for pregnant women and infants less than six months old.

What should I do?

DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS. *Infants below the age of 6 months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the maximum contaminant level could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome.* Blue baby syndrome is indicated by blueness of the skin. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.

Water, juice, and formula for children **under 6 months of age** should **not** be prepared with this tap water. Bottled water or other water low in nitrates should be used for infants until further notice.

DO NOT BOIL THE WATER. Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does **not** reduce the nitrate level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated, because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates.

Adults and children older than six months can drink the tap water (nitrate is a concern for infants because they can't process nitrates in the same way adults can). However, if you are pregnant or have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult your health care professional. General health related questions may be directed to Dave Gordon of the DES Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health at (603) 271-4608.

What happened?

Nitrate in drinking water can come from natural, industrial, or agricultural sources (including septic systems and run-off). Levels of nitrate in drinking water can vary throughout the year.

Steps We Are Taking: _____
(describe corrective action such as hiring a consultant, investigation treatment options, etc.)

We anticipate resolving the problem within _____. For more information, please contact
(estimated time frame)

_____ of _____ at _____
(name of contact) (system or company) (telephone number)

or _____
(address)

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

EPA #: _____ Date distributed: _____